

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**IN RE: JOHNSON & JOHNSON
TALCUM POWDER PRODUCTS
MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES,
AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY
LITIGATION**

EDWARD BENOIT, INDIVIDUALLY
AND ON BEHALF OF THE ESTATE
OF DARLENE BENOIT

Plaintiff,

v.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON, JOHNSON &
JOHNSON CONSUMER, INC. f/k/a
JOHNSON & JOHNSON CONSUMER
COMPANIES, INC.,

Defendants.

**MDL NO. 2738 (FLW) (LHG)
JUDGE FREDA L. WOLFSON
MAG. JUDGE LOIS H.
GOODMAN**

COMPLAINT AND JURY
DEMAND

Civil Action No.: _____

DIRECT FILED ACTION

**SHORT FORM COMPLAINT
AND JURY DEMAND**

The Plaintiff(s) named below file(s) this *Short Form Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial* against Defendants named below by and through the undersigned counsel. Plaintiff(s) incorporate(s) by reference the allegations contained in *Plaintiffs' Master Long Form Complaint* in *In re: Talcum Powder*

Products Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2738 in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Plaintiff(s) file(s) this Short Form Complaint as permitted by Case Management Order No. 2 of this Court.

In addition to those causes of action contained in *Plaintiffs' Master Long Form Complaint*, where certain claims require specific pleadings and/or amendments, Plaintiff(s) shall add and include them herein.

IDENTIFICATION OF PARTIES

Identification of Plaintiff(s)

1. Name of individual injured due to the use of talcum powder product(s):

Darlene Benoit

2. At the time of the filing of the specific case, Plaintiff(s) is/are a citizen of:

Florida, United States

3. Consortium Claim(s): The following individual(s) allege damages for loss of consortium: Edward Benoit, spouse.

4. Survival and/or Wrongful Death Claims:

Name and residence of Decedent Plaintiff when she suffered the talcum powder product(s) related death: Darlene Benoit; Key West, FL

5. Plaintiff/Decedent was born on 3/31/1957 and died on 1/25/2016.

6. Plaintiff is filing this case in a representative capacity as the _____ of the _____, having been duly appointed as the _____ by the _____ Court of _____.

7. As a result of using talcum powder products, Plaintiff/Decedent suffered personal and economic injur(ies) that are alleged to have been caused by the use of the products identified in Paragraph 16 below, but not limited to, the following:

☒ injury to herself
☒ injury to the person represented
☒ wrongful death
☒ survivorship action
☒ economic loss
☒ loss of services
☒ loss of consortium
other: _____

Identification of Defendants

8. Plaintiff(s)/Decedent Plaintiff(s) is/are suing the following Defendant(s) (please check all that apply)¹:

¹ If additional Counts and/or Counts directed to other Defendants are alleged by the specific

- ☒ Johnson & Johnson
- ☒ Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc.

Additional Defendants:

- ☒ Other(s) Defendant(s) (please specify): DOES 1-100
-

JURISDICTION & VENUE

Jurisdiction:

9. Jurisdiction in this Short Form Complaint is based on:

- ☒ Diversity of Citizenship
- ☐ Other (The basis of any additional ground for jurisdiction must be
pleaded in sufficient detail as required by the applicable Federal Rules of Civil
Procedure)._____
-

Venue:

10. District Court(s) and Division (if any) in which venue was proper where you
might have otherwise filed this Short Form Complaint absent the direct filing Order
entered by this Court and to where remand could be ordered by the Judicial Panel

Plaintiff(s) as to whom this *Short Form Complaint* applies, the specific facts supporting these
allegations must be pleaded by the Plaintiff(s) in a manner complying with the requirements of
the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Defendants against whom they are alleged must be
specifically identified on a separate sheet of paper attached to this *Short Form Complaint*.

for trial: United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

CASE SPECIFIC FACTS

11. Plaintiff(s) currently reside(s) in (City, State):
Lady Lake, FL.

12. At the time of the Plaintiff's/Decedent's diagnosis with a talcum powder product(s) injury, Plaintiff/Decedent resided in (City, State):
Key West, FL.

13. The Plaintiff/Decedent was diagnosed with a talcum powder product(s) injury in (City/State): Miami, FL on 11/20/2014 (date).

14. To the best of Plaintiff's knowledge, Plaintiff/Decedent began using talcum powder product(s) on or about the following date: 1980s and continued the use of talcum powder product(s) through about the following date: 2014.

15. The Plaintiff/Decedent purchased talcum powder product(s) in the following (State(s)): Florida.

16. Plaintiff/Decedent used the following talcum powder products:

☒ Johnson & Johnson's Baby Powder

☒ Shower to Shower

CAUSES OF ACTION

17. Plaintiff(s) hereby adopt(s) and incorporate(s) by reference the *Master Long Form Complaint and Jury Demand* as if fully set forth herein.

18. The following claims and allegations asserted in the Master *Long Form Complaint and Jury Demand* are herein adopted by reference by Plaintiff(s):

☐ Count I: Products Liability – Strict Liability – Failure to Warn

(Against Imerys Talc)

☒ Count II: Products Liability – Strict Liability – Failure to Warn

(Against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

☐ Count III: Products Liability – Strict Liability – Defective

Manufacturer and Design (Against Imerys Talc)

☒ Count IV: Products Liability – Strict Liability – Defective

Manufacturer and Design (Against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

☒ Count V: Breach of Express Warranties (Against the Johnson &

Johnson Defendants)

☒ Count VI: Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability (Against

the Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

☒ Count VII: Breach of Implied Warranty of Fitness for a Particular

Purpose (Against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

☐ Count VIII: Negligence (Against Imerys Talc)

☒ Count IX: Negligence (Against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants)

- ☐ Count X: Negligence (Against PCPC)
- ☒ Count XI: Negligent Misrepresentation (Against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants)
- ☒ Count XII: Fraud (Against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants)
- ☐ Count XIII: Fraud (Against PCPC)
- ☒ Count XIV: Violation of State Consumer Protection Laws of the State of Florida (Against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants).
- ☐ Count XV: Fraudulent Concealment (Against Imerys Talc)
- ☒ Count XVI: Fraudulent Concealment (Against the Johnson & Johnson Defendants)
- ☐ Count XVII: Fraudulent Concealment (Against PCPC)
- ☒ Count XVIII: Civil Conspiracy (Against All Defendants)
- ☒ Count XIX: Loss of Consortium (Against All Defendants)
- ☒ Count XX: Punitive Damages (Against All Defendants)
- ☒ Count XXI: Discovery Rule and Tolling (Against All Defendants)
- ☒ Count XXII: Wrongful Death (Against All Defendants)
- ☒ Count XXIII: Survival Action (Against All Defendants)
- ☐ Furthermore, Plaintiff(s) assert(s) the following additional theories

and/or State Causes of Action against Defendant(s) identified in Paragraph nine (9) above. If Plaintiff(s) include(s) additional theories of recovery, to the extent they

require specificity in pleadings, the specific facts and allegations supporting these theories must be pled by Plaintiff(s) in a manner complying with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. _____

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff(s) pray(s) for relief and judgment against Defendants of compensatory damages, punitive damages, interest, costs of suit, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just, and as set forth in the Master Long Form Complaint as appropriate.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff(s) hereby demand a trial by jury as to all claims in this action.

Respectfully Submitted by

Dated: 11/21/2019

/s/ Michael Akselrud

Michael Akselrud

The Lanier Law Firm, PC

21550 Oxnard St., 3rd Fl

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

(310) 277-5100

Michael.Akselrud@lanierlawfirm.com

Counsel for Plaintiff(s)